expansion of existing health care infrastructure under Major Civil Works scheme of the Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Programme.

Under RCH-II, a lump sum financial assistance will be provided for construction of sub-centres including ANM quarters.

Area projects are being implemented with the assistance of World Bank and other international donor agencies in selected States and backward districts in the country. One of the main activities of area project includes construction of buildings for sub-centres, Primary Health Centres and Community Health Centres.

New constructions made under different area projects includes completion of construction of 28 maternity homes/MCH centres and 804 VHP/SCs. The construction of 27 VHP/SCs is under progress under RCH Sub Projects, which has been implemented in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Mizoram, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. Under United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) assisted Integrated Population and Development (IPD)-VI Project, 10 new constructions have been built in Orissa. 28 new constructions have been made in the State of Maharashtra under German Technical Co-operation (GTZ) assisted Basic Health Programme (BHP). Under Danish Aided (DANIDA) assisted Basic Health Services Programme (BHSP), 8 new constructions have been made in Madhya Pradesh.

Data Bank on new treatment techniques

*78. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal for setting up of a "Data Bank" for information regarding new techniques in medical treatment;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when a decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) to (c) There is no proposal for setting up of a "Data Bank" for information regarding new techniques in medical treatment.

The current practice in the medical science is that any new technique in medical treatment is tried by individual professional/group of professional/institutions/group of institutions and then presented at conference of respective professional body. The work so carried out is also published in peer reviewed journals. Various professionals/ professional bodies evaluate new technique in medical treatment and successful/validated techniques, then find place in standard text books. Once published in standard medical professional text books, the new technique of investigation/medical treatment finds wider acceptance.

Asian lions in Gir

*79. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Asian lions in Gir forest in Gujarat;

(b) whether Government have any plan for the rehabilitation of these lions as well as to increase their number;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government have left some of these lions in the forests of Kuno-Palpur in the year 1979;

(e) if so, their condition as of now; and

(f) the steps taken by Government to check the declining number of lions in various parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) There are around 327 lions in and around the Gir forests of Gujarat as per the information provided by the State Government based on population estimation done by them in May, 2001.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The Kuno-Palpur Sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh has been identified as an alternative home for the Asiatic lions, and a project has been undertaken for lion introduction in the said area.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.